

NOVEMBER 1995

# RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

## SURVIVAL

In the September issue of this bulletin, I was reporting on the state of RAC as an organization that looks after the good of all amateur operators in Canada.

Well RAC is not alone in the precarious situation of having only a very small percentage of the operators as member. 18% only is not a very large slice of the pie! While perusing the English sections of the August 1995 issue of the South African magazine Radio ZS, it would appear that there is a similar situation developing in that country.

"So You Think That You Cannot Afford To Belong To The League Any Longer?" is the title of the article. It relates the present situation in that country regarding the fact that not enough amateurs belong to the League and it is important to realize that the League is the "guardian" of the amateurs' rights in South Africa.

The article discusses the review being done of the spectrum use and the release last July of the "Green Paper for Telecommunications Policy." This paper looks critically at the need for South Africa to look at the distribution of available frequencies. This rings a bell! An interesting parallel here is that the next step is a "White Paper" and then legislation for formal implementation, a new "Telecommunication Act"? Do you want to have a voice in the drafting of this new legislation? Then support the League!

The article is most critical of the operators who do not feel they should belong to the League but have the enjoyment of all the same "goodies" as the operators that belong to the League, and paints a not very rosy picture of what could happen if the League does not have the funds and/or the mandate to speak for all the amateur operators in the country. I had to look very carefully and often at the cover page of the magazine to make sure that it was not TCA or the RAC Monthly Bulletin.

From what I am seeing in the amateur literature in the last few months, there is a major problem brewing for the amateur radio operators about the "free" use that they now have of some parts of the radio spectrum. It is important that all the amateurs, around the world, support their national associations, leagues, etc. If this is not done, there is a real danger that what we know now as the "Amateur Use" of certain slices of the HF spectrum, will become an "Antique" to be talked about while you are moving the pieces on a chessboard. Support Radio Amateurs of Canada, pay your dues promptly (and often!) and "entice, coerce, drag, blackmail..." new members to join Radio Amateurs of Canada.

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## SURVIVAL 2

In the last few months I have attended two Canadian and one American ham flea markets, and one fact did surprise me and also worried me: there were no young faces anywhere at these events.

At these gatherings, most of the buyers and sellers were older, equipment that was being sold and bought was eclectic and the conversations were, typically, reminiscences of "good" old days. But no young faces were to be seen, no young faces were looking over anyone's shoulder, no young voices were heard asking questions.



If the young crowd does not become interested in amateur radio, the hobby will disappear in the very near future and the frequency bands now "on loan" to the amateurs will have shrunk to minuscule flecks on the radio spectrum chart.

I do not have an answer, I do not think that one answer will suffice to reverse this trend. It would not be fair to say that the ham community was the only one that needs to look around and come up with some ideas. Over the years the equipment manufacturers have made it very easy to purchase equipment and get on the air with no problems. Gone are the days where a youngster could learn to build a new piece of equipment while learning what electronics and communications were all about.

In many publications, you still find some construction ideas but often they are very specialized and quite elaborate, often not projects to be undertaken by a youngster as a starter project.

What is being done to interest the coming generation to the hobby? Will we need to somehow combine amateur radio with computer technologies? What will the clubs do to attract that particular stratum of our population? We need answers and we need those answers **SOON**, before the hobby is dead and there are no bands left to operate on, the frequencies "on loan" to the hobby having been "loaned" to other services.

## ELECTION RESULTS

The RAC Election Committee made up of Bernard Burdsall **VE3NB**, Jacques d'Avignon **VE3VIA** and Jim Dean **VE3IQ**, met on Friday, Nov. 17th 1995 to determine the results of the election for Regional Directors.

### For Alberta / NWT

Ken Oelke **VE6AFO**, from Calgary, the current Board member, 304 votes  
Alan Faint **VE6TZY** also from Calgary, 127 votes.

44% of all eligible ballots were returned.

### In Ontario South

J. Fergus Kyle **VE3LVO**, current member of the Board from Burlington Ontario, 521 votes  
Geoffrey Smith **VA3GS** from Aurora, 381.

59% of all eligible ballots were returned.

### In the Quebec Region

Pierre Roger **VE2TQS**, current member of the Board from Montreal, 137 votes  
Dave Goodwin **VE2ZP** from Aylmer Quebec, 76.

59% of all eligible ballots were returned.



## AMATEUR LICENCE FEES GOING UP?

Rumours persist that the federal government plans to increase the price of an Amateur Radio license in the near future.

Industry Canada will neither confirm nor deny the rumours.

Jim Dean, RAC's Vice President for Government Affairs, recently said the following in response to a question from one Canadian amateur:

"In 1989, the Radio Communications Act replaced the former Radio Act. As a result, it is necessary for IC to bring the Radio Regulations into alignment with the new act. This process was begun a number of years ago, and has been the subject of consultation with spectrum users. One of the things that could be affected by this realignment is the fee structure, and this would be true for all spectrum users, not just amateurs. Services provided by the Government affect the fee structure. IC has been working on the realignment of the regulations and they have just about finished. Before the changes are finalized IC will have to publish them in the Canada Gazette and seek comment."

"To be realistic, I think we are in for a fee increase. IC is well aware of what amateurs in other countries are paying for their annual licence fees. The costs of all Government services are going up, and Spectrum Management is no exception. Indeed, there is tremendous pressure on spectrum management due to new PCS licences, DTH television by satellite, cellular and mobile telephones, etc."

Stay tuned. as soon as there is any news, we will let you know.

## DECEMBER 1995 ISSUE OF TCA

The issue of The Canadian Amateur features a Christmas cover and details inside of the Santa Claus Network. There are complete 1995 Canadian Field Day results, rules and an entry form for the RAC Winter Contest and a holiday contest calendar.

The Christmas issue of TCA also includes a review of the Ten-Tec 6m transverter, details of the 1995 Young Amateur of the Year, sponsored by the York Region ARC, and further coverage of the September IARU Region 2 Conference in Niagara Falls.

All this plus ads chock-full of Christmas goodies from your favorite suppliers, Feedback letters, Silent Keys, an update on regulatory matters, regular columns, DX reports, HF propagation forecasts, EMC/RFI tips in the Crosswaves column, packet radio, club news, YL News, QUA, ARES, Public Service, Section News, This month in History, bench and homebrewing tips, antenna design, shortwave listening, a Coming Events calendar for the new year, and the Swap Shop- all in the December issue of The Canadian Amateur, coming soon to your mailbox.

## VE5HG

In last month's Bulletin, the call sign of Eric Quiring was reported as **VE5HQ**. It should have read **VE5HG**. The Bulletin Editor is a very good typist... with 4 fingers! Sorry about the misprint.



## WHERE IS THE HIGHEST REPEATER?

In September we had reported that **VE6HWY** (9744 feet) was the highest repeater in Canada, and now we have been advised that this is not completely correct. We have received a message stating that **VE7KNP** (9748 feet) IS now the highest by 4, yes 4 feet! I refuse to take sides, specially when two provinces are involved in this "dispute". Please, will the highest repeater stand up?

## HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS

While reviewing some of the Clubs bulletins and correspondence received in Kingston on a regular basis, it was noted that still in many cases the postal address is incorrect. This may cause some problems, as the Post Office could return the incorrectly addressed mail. Please check your mailing lists and amend if necessary to:

**Radio Amateur of Canada  
614 Norris Court, Unit 6  
Kingston, ON K7P 2R9**

Some Clubs still have on hand some membership applications that carry the incorrect address Please check your supply and correct the address if necessary.

## REQUEST FOR NEWS ITEMS

If any club is interested in having some items on national significance published in the Monthly Bulletin, please send to me before the 5th of the month. As I am a very poor 4-finger typist, send me long articles on diskette if possible, that will make my life much easier! Acceptable format: WP 6.1/Windows, ASCII or anything that will translate easily to WP6.1/Windows. I am also looking for graphics in any format: GIF, DRW, PCX, etc that depicts some radio equipment or related activities. If you have a source, please let me know where I can find these graphics.

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Special thanks to Debbie Norman, General Manager RAC, who contributes significantly to the editing and proof-reading of the bulletin. Also acknowledged are those who have forwarded items for the bulletin.

The purpose is to circulate Amateur Radio news and information on a timely basis between issues of *The Canadian Amateur magazine*.

All material in the Bulletin may be reprinted but please credit the Bulletin, the original author, and the original publication if one is given.

Please submit original stories or information to the editor before the 5th of the month of publication.

Annual subscriptions to RAC News Bulletin are available by mailing \$10 before September 1. Subscription expires every August 31.

The RAC News Bulletin is published monthly except July and August. by:

**Radio Amateurs of Canada,  
Kingston, ON K7P 2R9.**